* Supply chain issues between the farmers, raw silk producers and the weavers are being addressed by advocating contract farming models, price linked grading, etc.

* An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been provided in the X Plan for the sericulture sector to support the above strategy & programmes;

(d) Sericulture is being taken up in 25 States and production of raw silk stood at 15742 MT(P) in 2003-04. Productivity of mulberry silk has increased from 49.77 kg./ha. to 75.46 kg./ha. over seven years. Exports of silk goods have risen, and reached Rs. 2576.52 crores in 2003-04.

Training facilities for the MES Officers and Staff

1. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the strength of MES Officers and subordinate staff is approximately 1.5 lakh;

(b) if so, whether there are any training facilities for them;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to provide proper training institute for them; and

(e) if so, when the institute is expected to function?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A training institute, namely College of Military Engineering exists at Pune which also imparts training to MES officers and subordinate staff. There is no proposal to provide any other institute.

(e) Does not arise.